

Good evening members of the council,

My name is Ethan Wang and I am currently a junior at Wootton high school. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Wootton community about a pressing issue that affects all of us. In my time at Wootton, the staff and students have always been fantastic and have made the school a great experience. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the facilities. There are a few main issues that exist with the building that I will be discussing today.

First is the heating and ventilation. I have never seen more inconsistent heating than at Wootton. The temperature difference between rooms is seemingly random and drastically different at times. It's quite distracting for us students since we're bound to be uncomfortable in at least a few of our classes each day.

Second is the stairwells and hallways. Of all the MCPS schools I have visited, Wootton easily has the smallest stairs. The problems with this were made pretty clear, especially with the pandemic where it's pretty much impossible to maintain social distance. This same problem also applies to the hallway where, especially between classes, it can become extremely crowded.

In addition, the ceiling tiles are slowly being worn out and falling off. Especially in the lower levels of the school, it's common to see ceiling tiles missing and sometimes even leaking water.

Lastly, the bathrooms in the school are way too small to accommodate the two thousand people that are supposed to share them. Most bathrooms have just one or two stalls and the urinals have no dividers.

The condition of the school is rapidly deteriorating. The paint is peeling off the wall. The atmosphere of the school is dreary and not at all what an educational institution should be like.

All of the aforementioned pose great safety and health issues to every student and staff member in the school. Despite being one of the best schools in the state, Wootton certainly does not look like it.

This is why I urge you to prioritize renovating Wootton. Our school has been neglected for far too long. Thank you for your attention.